

January 2015

# *The Castle Hills* Reporter

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

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# Message From the Mayor



*Tim Howell  
Mayor*

I trust that everyone enjoyed the holidays. Ready or not the holiday season came with great anticipation and haste and the New Year was upon us again. Like Santa, we at city hall were busy accomplishing what we pledged to get started by years end.

The reclamation process of streets is completed on a number of our streets. This is a process that will add life to existing streets that needed maintenance and minimal repair. Crack sealing is underway on streets requiring moderate repair. The first major expenditure exceeding \$1,000,000 has also begun on 12 streets needing a mill and overlay process to bring those streets up to the standards of what we expect for our streets. Public Works department head Rick Harada and administrative assistant Leann Collins, along with the expertise of council member John Squire and input from all of the council, are closely working together to carefully plan these first stages.

The beginning of our drainage plans are underway with the city engineer's oversight and guidance from council member Gregory serving as the chair of the Drainage Committee. Councilman Paul is also in the wings for advisement. After long hours and dedication, the new employee handbook has been completed. The new and improved city website is being formatted as we speak, and hopefully will go live by late winter. Also, the sign ordinance (including digital billboards) I presented to council several months ago and was passed unanimously, is taking shape. Once the digital billboards are in place, and income is realized, I will ask council's approval to earmark this revenue to specifically fund street and drainage projects.

In other news, the new City Manager has done wonders in bringing the various city departments together and is encouraging employees to formulate new and out-of-the-box ideas. She is moving the departments in a direction that will excel citizen's expectations by having employees deliver premier city services.

Last but not least, council member Daggett along with council member Wenger, are involved in upcoming city projects. We will be talking about these projects in the future.

Happy New Year!

Warm Regards,

Timothy A Howell  
Mayor  
Castle Hills, Texas  
210~535~9094

[www.cityofcastlehills.com](http://www.cityofcastlehills.com)  
[timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com](mailto:timothyallanhowell@yahoo.com)  
[mayor@cityofcastlehills.com](mailto:mayor@cityofcastlehills.com)  
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## CITY COUNCIL

Tim Howell  
Mayor

Lesley Wenger  
Place 1

Matthew Daggett  
Place 2

John Squire  
Place 3, Mayor Pro Tem

Frank Paul  
Place 4

Douglas Gregory  
Place 5

CITY STAFF  
(210) 342-2341

Diane Pfeil  
City Manager, ext. 214

Yolanda Benitez  
Interim City Secretary, ext. 216

Suzanne Riley  
Finance/Human Resources, ext. 224

Jerry Riedel  
Fire Department Chief, ext. 217

Wayne Davis  
Police Department Chief, ext. 210

Rick Harada  
Public Works & Animal Control  
Department Director, ext. 206

ALL EMERGENCIES, EMT, FIRE &  
POLICE CALL 911

Non-emergency (210) 342-2341

Monthly Meetings  
All meetings are held at  
City Hall unless otherwise posted.

City Council  
2nd Tuesday, 6:30pm

Architectural Review Committee  
3rd Monday, 7:00pm  
Upon Request

Board of Adjustment  
3rd Wednesday, 7:00pm  
Upon Request

Zoning Commission  
1st Tuesday, 7:00pm  
Upon Request

Crime Control & Prevention District  
3rd Monday, 6:00pm  
As Needed



## The Changing Of The Seasons

By Diane Pfeil, City Manager

What a great time of year! The air is crisp, leaves are beginning to fall, and the anticipation of the holiday season is upon us. Here at city hall we are busy working on projects and initiatives to make our great city even better. I have always believed the holiday season is a magical time of the year. We end our calendar year with special celebrations, family, friends, and a renewed spirit as we look ahead to the New Year.

Presently, work continues on our streets. The Public Works Team, along with selected contractors are busy with maintenance and repair of our streets. And soon, we will begin major street repairs all over the city.

A new website is in the works that allows timely accurate information in a user friendly format. A survey is being compiled right now to find out what you, the user, would like to see on the Castle Hills website. The survey will be on our

website and available here at city hall. Or better yet, just come by city hall and let's chat. I would love to hear what the residents and businesses want and need on our website. It is our goal to have a website that is informational, interactive and meeting the needs of the user.

We are busy analyzing all of our city services to make sure we are providing the most efficient use of your tax dollars. That is very important to me, because as most of you know, I too, am a resident. As I drive the neighborhoods and talk to neighbors, I am always conscious of the responsibilities of stewardship of which the city council and staff are tasked to provide you, the residents and businesses, superior customer service and add to your quality of life.

There have been numerous events and programs during this fall season when the community of Castle Hills has gathered together to strengthen neighborhoods and improve our city.

Thanks to the many volunteers from Castle Hills First Baptist Church and the Castle Hills Community Organization who

accepted the call to service on October 25th, the National Day of Service to give their time, and talents to landscape and beautify our Common area.

We recently had Safety Awareness, National Night Out and a Halloween Carnival. Watching all of the residents getting involved and having a great time was truly an uplifting experience for me. Our city has tremendous civic organizations that never cease to amaze me with their commitment to making Castle Hills such an amazing place. I know it is difficult sometimes to volunteer your time but I certainly am thankful for all the "giving" people in this community.

Our city is only as strong as our employees, residents and businesses working together. So many positive things are going on around us and the momentum continues to grow. I invite each of you to get involved. Come by city hall and let's chat about moving our city forward in a positive manner.

Our family, here at city hall, wish you and your family a very safe holiday season!

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# COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



## November 12, 2014 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Presented a proclamation to Mary Evelee Moore in honor of her 100th birthday.
- Presented a proclamation to Castle Hills First Baptist Church in recognition of National Day of Service.
- Designated San Antonio Express-News as the City's Official Newspaper.

## November 18, 2014 – Special City Council Meeting

- Held Executive Session to discuss the duties of the City Manager.

## December 9, 2014 – Regular City Council Meeting

- Conducted a public hearing on the recommendation of the Architectural Review Committee on an application from Thomson Castle Hills, Ltd., regarding exterior renovations to Castle Hills Plaza Shopping Center, and approved the recommendation.
- Approved the engineering firm of Klotz Associates to develop the drainage master plan.
- Approved Phase II of the Courtroom Security Initiative.
- Accepted the proposal for Audit Services from Armstrong, Vaughan and Associates, P.C. to conduct FY 2014 Annual City Audit and authorized the City Manager to sign an engagement letter.
- Approved a one-time holiday for City employees on Friday, December 26, 2014.
- Approved the revised Employee Manual submitted by City Manager Diane Pfeil.
- Approved purchase of tablets for City Council and appropriate staff and authorized the City Manager to purchase them at the best available price.

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## Castle Hills Police Department

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and hope 2015 brings us another great year. I would first like to recognize Officer Lance Bonnette, who retired December 31, 2014 after 20 years of service. He is looking forward to his retirement and we are certainly happy for him. However, we should also realize we lose a great deal of experience and institutional knowledge. We are doing our best to recruit and retain good employees and we will never lose sight of this. We look forward to finding his replacement and will continue to provide premier city services in public safety.

Now, on to crime prevention and awareness. We saw an increase in vehicle burglaries during the month of November. I would like to remind you to please LOCK your vehicle and remove any and all items out of plain sight. We had less "break ins" than we did "simple entry" burglaries. The burglars were simply checking to see if your vehicle was locked or unlocked. If it was unlocked, well you know what happened. Again, please keep your vehicles locked and all items, such as cell phones, computers, sunglasses, wallet, purse, shopping bags etc... OUT OF PLAIN SIGHT.

We thank you for all your support and will continue to provide the best possible service an agency can offer. If you ever need anything please do not hesitate to call, remember we are here 24/7/365.

Wayne Davis  
Chief of Police



## EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

### Anniversaries

#### 20-Years

Wayne Waggoner, Police Department

#### 5-Years

Garrett Barfknecht, Fire Department

Dustin Vacker, Fire Department

#### 1-Year

Janet Thelen, Administration

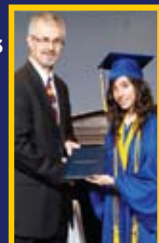
## CASTLE HILLS FIRST BAPTIST SCHOOL

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- EXCELLENCE IN FINE ARTS
- BAND & CHOIR TAPPS STATE CHAMPS 2014
- STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY
- SECURITY ON CAMPUS
- AFFORDABLE TUITION



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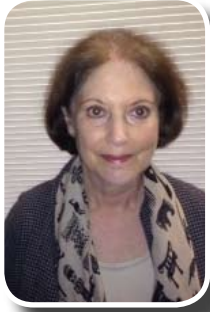
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# Council Comments



*Lesley Wenger*  
Place 1

## Farewell to Friends and Notable Neighbors

So often when we hear that a friend or neighbor has passed on, we learn about their accomplishments which they never bothered to tell us. This may not be a complete list, but it's as complete as I can manage, based on information published in the newspaper, of valued Castle Hills residents who left us in 2014

**Dr. James Jennings** (April 12) a member of Wayside Chapel, was born in Chicago in 1933. After joining the Navy, he graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine and moved, with his wife Sue, to Argentua, Newfoundland to serve as a medical officer. In 1962 he transferred to the Air Force and completed a pathology residency at Ohio State University Hospital. As a true inquisitive scientist, he discovered that imbalance in the blood sometimes caused odd or crazy behavior, so in his late 40s he completed a residency in psychiatry at Wilford Hall. His approach was always holistic before that was popular, avoiding medications for his patients when not absolutely necessary, and promoting a good diet. After retiring from the Air Force as a Colonel, he opened his private medical practice in San Antonio, close to Castle Hills.

**Carol Van Norman** (May 16) daughter of Joan Buerschinger (former City Councilmember) was born in Odessa, Texas in 1958. A graduate of Alamo Heights HS and SMU, Carol began working in sports for Channel 8 in Dallas. For over 30 years as a graphic designer she was employed at TBS and FOX Sports covering the Barcelona and Atlanta Olympics as well as the 1994 World Cup. Returning to San Antonio in 2002 she worked for the KLRN Auction, the Rodeo and the Spurs. With frequent visits to Castle Hills as well as intermittent periods of residence here, Carol had many friends in Castle Hills and resided here for the last year of her life while receiving medical treatment.

**Kaye Taylor** (May 19) while not a resident, Kaye was well-known and respected as the co-owner, with her daughter Tiffany, of Bygones Fine Furniture (West/NW Military). Known for her exquisite taste, Kaye was born and raised in Fort Worth where she held a number of beauty queen titles including Miss Fort Worth. She studied interior design at Texas Christian University and established her own design firm The Re Arrangers. Kaye was passionate about the state of the country, and loved to share her stories—many of which involved her family—with everyone she knew.

**Walter Brown** (July 18) was born in Breckenridge, Texas in 1930. He graduated from UT, became an oil & gas producer and investor, founding Delray Oil as well as W.F. Brown Exploration Ltd. of Canada. Married for 59 years to his wife Lenora, Walter also served on numerous utility boards as well as on the boards of Celeron Corp. and Trinity University where he became Board Chairman. He was a recipient of Trinity's Distinguished Service Award and he and Lenora endowed both Trinity's Distinguished Lecture and Distinguished Scientist series. Walter was also a Trustee Emeritus of Texas Bio-Medical Research and of the McNay Art Museum. As a life trustee of the San Antonio Museum of Art, the Browns began donating their collection of Asian artworks in the 1980s and in 2005 were honored with the naming of the Walter and Lenora Brown Asian Wing in SAMA's expansion. Not surprisingly he was a founding member of the Petroleum Club as well as of Club Giraud.

**Harry White** (July 28) renowned landscape artist was born in Corpus Christi in 1923. A graduate of Sherwood School of Music in Chicago, Harry was a music patron and prior to his second career, taught at Edison & Burbank high schools and at Trinity University. Harry and Don Morris formed a landscape design firm Morris & White and developed, through their work, an international reputation. Aside from establishing a multi-acre showplace on Fox Hall Lane which they generously shared with local community groups over the years, their work was featured in Architectural Digest, Southern Living and other prominent design magazines. Specializing in the lighting of gardens, Harry was an esteemed resident of Castle Hills for 60 years.

**Lt. Col. William T. Johnson** (August 28) born in Terrell, Texas in 1928 was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 17 and was sent to Texas A&M where he joined the Corps of Cadets as a Sergeant. Subsequently inducted into the Ross Volunteers, he met his wife Barbara, graduated in 1950 and was then inducted into the U.S. Air Force as a 2nd Lt. Bill returned to A&M to earn a Masters in Civil Engineering in 1955. During his 27 years in the military he had assignments in Florida, Alaska, Ohio, Germany, Spain and Missouri, retiring from the Air Force as a Lt. Col in 1971—along the way he earned numerous military decorations, most notably the Legion of Merit for his service in Vietnam. After retiring

he joined Raba Kistner Engineering and returned to A&M to earn his Doctorate in Engineering in 1981. After that he opened W.T. Johnson Consulting Services, became a Laboratory Inspector for the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation and traveled throughout the U.S., Guam, Kuwait and Bahrain as a Geotechnical Engineering Expert. Bill designed and supervised the building of the first permanent building on the Arctic floating ice pack, taught Lunar Soil Mechanics at the Air Force Institute of Technology, accurately predicted the chemical composition of lunar soil long before the first soft landing and was involved in the construction of numerous prominent San Antonio buildings. He was a member of Blessed Sacrament and will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in January 2015.

**Sam Cohen** (September 7) was born in Salonika, Greece in 1922 and was put into a hard labor camp when the Germans invaded Greece. However he was able to escape, becoming a Holocaust survivor and fought in the underground for the duration of the WWII. While making plans to come to America, he met his future wife Micheline in Paris and after she joined him, they were married in Rhode Island in 1955. Settling in San Antonio, Sam started his business State Leather & Shoe Company with his friend William Yahiel (also a Castle Hills resident). Sam dedicated his free time to educating young people about the atrocities of the Holocaust.

**Gene Wellborn** (October 19), born in Lubbock in 1929, Gene moved to San Antonio at the age of one. He attended Harlandale HS and then San Antonio College before serving in the U.S. Army. Deciding to strike out on his own, Gene founded and ran several businesses over his career including Wood Disposal Company and Zoro Sportswear. He received several government contracts to help with clean-up after natural disasters. An avid bridge & poker player, golfer and world traveler, Gene lived to celebrate 59 years of marriage with his wife, Patsy and was interred at Sam Houston National Cemetery.

**Dr. Gerhard** (Gary) Meyer (October 28) born in 1923 he emigrated from Germany as a child, growing up in Mexico City before moving to the U.S. Graduating from the Long Island College of Medicine in New York in 1947, he did his post-graduate work at New York City Hospital and went on to a fellowship at the highly regarded Cleveland Clinic. Because his schooling was paid by the U.S. Army, he re-enlisted in the USAF Medical Corps during the Korean War and was honorably discharged as a Captain in 1952. Gary and his wife Felicitas (former Mayor of Castle Hills) moved to San Antonio in 1954 to set up his private practice. During his career he was a member of the Nix Hospital Staff, Chief of Medicine and Chief of Staff at St. Luke's Lutheran Hospital and co-founder and partner of the Southwest Medical Clinic. Dedicated to the community, as well as to medicine, Gary made time to serve as President of the Texas Academy Chapter of the American College of Physicians as well as of the San Antonio Club-Texas Society of Internal Medicine and was appointed to the National Advisory Council of Regional Medical Programs (HEW). Gary and Felicitas were married for 65 years.

**Orphie Neathery III** (November 4) was born in Granite, Oklahoma in 1941, married his high school sweetheart Annette (who passed away less than a year before) and in 1961 and they both enrolled in Texas A&M where Orphie studied petroleum engineering. Later, earning his Masters in Geological Engineering, he began his career with Mobil Oil which took them to different cities. In 1978 the family moved to San Antonio, after his own father died, taking over the business as an independent oil and gas producer. Having earned his pilot's license as a young man, Orphie was proud of his Beechcraft A36 Bonanza and his Harley-Davidson which he rode around the Hill Country, winning the Corpus Christie Labor Day Regatta in inclement weather. He adored trains and as a member of SAMRA built landscapes and towns for the club. He was also a member of the Petroleum Club and the Oak Hills Country Club, cared deeply about the country and was always ready to talk politics.

Please let me know if you have any questions about our notable neighbors or about city issues. You can reach me at (210) 377-3636 or by e-mail [wengertx@satx.rr.com](mailto:wengertx@satx.rr.com)



*Matthew Daggett,*  
Place 2





*John Squire,*  
**PLACE 3**

I truly hope that everyone had a blessed and happy holiday season. Wow, it's amazing how fast 2014 flew by and I see no slowing down for 2015.

As we have been and are continuing to make progress in the maintenance of our streets, a huge step forward was taken when council approved the plan for the repair of a dozen of our streets with the allocation of \$1,000,000 towards this Phase 1 project. Going forward, I believe by the time this newsletter is received the engineering survey and utility coordination data for this specific work will be complete and the process for putting this project out for contract will be under way. Additionally, we continue to further define our ongoing street maintenance efforts which include the development of a 5 year street repair plan. Finally, weather permitting, the crack sealing coordinated by Public Works should be coming to completion for our city which will finish this cycle of preservation efforts for a majority of streets. With sustained council support progress on our streets will continue.

On another note, during the previous several months, Mayor Howell and I met and worked extensively with VIA to help define and bring some additional resources into our city. A great accomplishment that was driven by our citizens was the reroute of VIA's line from Lockhill Selma to NW Military which now will finally serve our business corridor. Another item is the monetary investment of around \$380,000 that VIA is directing into our city. While this investment is limited to public access and transportation related items, it comes to us with no strings attached which we will use to the benefit of our city.

Additionally, a storm water drainage committee was formed and council approved the engagement of professional engineers to start the research and development of a comprehensive city wide Master Drainage Plan. This is a long term effort that has needed to be addressed for a very long time in our city. It is my hope that once this plan is complete, we can utilize the plan to reach out to find the resources to begin addressing this long term problem.

I thank everyone for their appreciation and recognition of the work that has been done to date, and I continue to look forward for Our City.

As always, I am available to discuss our City's issues and encourage you to keep in touch. I can be reached at:

- email address – [jsquire@cityofcastlehills.com](mailto:jsquire@cityofcastlehills.com) or
- phone – 210-390-4611

Respectfully, Councilman Squire



*Frank Paul,*  
**PLACE 4**

Castle Hills is uniquely situated being within the boundaries of San Antonio. It gives us a good small hometown feel with the amenities of a large city all around us. I believe it is the best of all worlds.

That being said, we should all take part in the activities the city has to offer. This of course includes participating in our local government. Come to council meetings and participate. Learn what is going on. Do what you can to make sure Castle Hills stays the great community it is.

Local government is something with which we can all get involved, make our concerns known and know that someone will listen. Of course that does not always mean agree. With close to 5,000 citizens, one can imagine the diversity in opinions that might exist. But to listen is a start.

The city offers many social functions throughout the year. Most will be listed on the city website and often are put on Nextdoor. So if you are not on Nextdoor, please send me an e-mail and I will get you involved. It is a great community sounding board for all things, expect politics. For politics there are a couple of blogs within Nextdoor that will be glad to talk politics or anything else with you.

I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Frank Paul  
[fpaul@cityofcastlehills.com](mailto:fpaul@cityofcastlehills.com)



*Douglas Gregory,*  
**PLACE 5**

Since my last column, representatives of VIA visited City Council to discuss their latest possible ideas. Currently, only bus pods will be considered for construction; no streets will be fixed. Trial balloons continue to be floated by VIA concerning possible projects. Final decisions are pushed further out, with few signs of commitment. Such is the current state of affairs.

Recently, Mayor Howell charged me to be the Chairman of the Drainage Master Plan Committee, Councilmember Paul and City Manager Pfeil round out the committee. We recommend that one of our City Engineers, Klotz Associates, be the firm of choice. Having a plan first, detailing what must be done and in what order, is the logical and fiscally conservative methodology I have chosen to recommend to the Council. I will report back to you in future columns and to the Council specifically, when plans are completed and are up for consideration.

Castle Hills is moving forward in successfully addressing our infrastructure problems. Funding of the entire package will be challenging but it will be done. For now, we will define the problem and begin the repair process.

Respectfully, Councilman Gregory



## CODE COMPLIANCE

The most cited code violation is, by far, “debris on property”. The code, “Sec. 26-117. - Prohibition of weeds, high grass, and debris”, which applies to residents and businesses, states:

*“It is unlawful for any person, or his agent, owning, renting, or having under his control any lot or premises, whether vacant or improved, within the city to permit the same to be covered, in whole or in part, with any weeds, high grass, downed timber or brush, old logs, decaying vegetable matter, trash or trash piles, junk, scrap, open garbage, filth, or debris whatsoever, and same are declared to be public nuisances, a hazard and menace to public health, and fire hazards.”*

Although the wording covers many items, not all items are covered. Two examples (examples, only) of debris are; construction materials left over from any sort of remodel, renovation, new-build, upgrade, etc. (even if such material will be or can be used on another project), and any sort of collected/stored items which can be seen from the public-right-of-way. The rule of thumb is, if you can see any collection of items of any description from a public roadway, sidewalk, alleyway, through a partial or out-of-repair fence, it is a citable offense. Also keep in mind that excessive brush is defined as that which exceeds an amount which can be (or estimated to be) contained within three (3) thirty-gallon (30) trash receptacles. It is perfectly acceptable to “meter out” that amount over the course of several weeks as long as the excessive amount is stored out of the public view.

Many times, violations of the above code are accompanied by other violations, particularly having to do with trailers, etc., being used as dumpsters etc. The parking language in the zoning code defines what can and cannot be parked in a residential zone, regardless of the vehicle’s use, intended use or customary/traditional use. The code, “Sec. 50-67. - Vehicle parking and storage”, states, in part:

*“(b) Parking of utility and recreational vehicles.*

*(1) No mobile home, manufactured home, trailer, semi-*

*trailer, commercial or agricultural tractor, boat, recreational vehicle or any other towed or self-propelled utility or recreational vehicle or device may be parked, stored, or placed in the A Single Family District.”*

Thus, any sort of trailer, be it a flatbed, cargo, utility, business-related trailer etc., parked in a residential zone is prohibited unless it is “...in a garage that remains closed to view from the street, alley, and neighboring properties or it may be parked in the rear yard inside the setbacks for a principal building and on a surfaced area accessed by a driveway and inside a perimeter fence enclosing the entire rear yard and meeting the definition of a screening device provided in section 50-1, as long as no unhealthy, unsanitary, or hazardous conditions exist and none are created...” (Sec. 50-67. - Vehicle parking and storage [d] [1]).

Any citizen can access the Castle Hills Code of Ordinances at:

[https://www.municode.com/library/tx/castle\\_hills/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=COOR](https://www.municode.com/library/tx/castle_hills/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR)

You may also call me at 210.342.2341 ex 221 if you have questions or concerns or wish to file a code violation complaint.

-Luis Zamarron  
Code Compliance

## Citizen Recognized for Service

At the November 18, 2014 VIA Board of Trustees meeting, local resident John Strieb was recognized for his participation as a member of the VIA Long Range Citizens Advisory Council. Congratulations and thank you to John Strieb for representing the City of Castle Hills and the needs of citizens across the area.



Pictured – John Strieb (center) with VIA President/CEO Jeff Arndt (right) and Manager of Community Relations, Sylvia Mendiola (left). Photo provided by VIA staff Daniel R. Rodriguez.

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# YOUR COMMUNITY



Matt Surber, Lead Pastor at CH First Baptist Church received a Proclamation at the November 12th council meeting from Mayor Howell for the National Day of Service for church members donating their time improving the landscaping at city hall and at the Commons.



Public Works employee Chad Reed removes graffiti in the drainage near Loop 410 and Blanco Road.



Mayor Howell issues a Proclamation in celebration of resident Mrs. Evelee Moore's 100 birthday at the November 12th council meeting.

## City Holiday

Monday, January 19, 2015, City Offices will be closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Trash Pick-up will follow the holiday schedule and regular Monday pick-up slides over one day to Tuesday. Tuesday normal pickup will be on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday normal pickup. There is NO brush pick-up on the holiday schedule.



Joe Prado and Rosty Acosta with Public Works spruce up the city with holiday wreaths.





Public Works employees Brian DeHaro, Joe Prado and Rosty Acosta with the guidance of Rick Harada assemble the Christmas tree in the Commons.



GhostBuster Michael Joyce shares in the festivities with Councilman Frank Paul.



The Christmas tree sets the stage for the holiday season in the recently landscaped Commons.



Stacia Spridgen mans the "Toilet Paper Toss" at the Halloween Carnival.

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Whimsey Art Studio hosts an art booth for the resident ghosts and goblins at the Halloween Carnival.



During the Halloween Carnival residents enjoyed rolling around the Commons in "The Game Ball"



Residents enjoyed the Halloween Carnival Cake Walk.



Trick or Treaters line up to "fish".

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**FIESTA POPS**  
Akiko Fujimoto, conductor  
April 17 & 18, 2015, 8:00 p.m.  
April 19, 2015, 3:00 p.m.  
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**CIRQUE DE LA SYMPHONIE**  
Akiko Fujimoto, conductor  
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May 10, 2015, 3:00 p.m.  
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## Public Works - Winter Safety Tips

Public Works puts out barricades during heavy rains to indicate low water crossings. Please stay safe this winter by heeding the barricades, and remember the following:

- Do not drive around a barricade that has been set in place
- Do not drive into water that is higher than 18" inches
- Be especially cautious when driving at night when it is harder to recognize flooding dangers
- Obey all hazard signs and follow the motto "Turn Around, Don't Drown"\*

We urge you never to drive around a barricade that has been set out. The barricades are there for your safety, and although the road may look passable, it is highly likely that it is not. Many drivers believe their vehicle is heavy enough to pass through flooded roads. In reality, most motorists lose control of their vehicles, including SUVs, in just six inches of water. Just 18-24 inches of moving water will make a vehicle buoyant enough to move it off the road.

During heavy rains safety barricades will be placed at the following locations:

- Banyan Dr (Carolwood Dr, Gardenvue Dr, Glentower Dr, Tamworth Dr)
- Mimosa Dr (between Zornia Dr and S. Manton Ln)
- E Castle Lane (between Zornia Dr and S. Manton Ln)
- Krameria Dr (between Zornia Dr and West Ave)

Please respect the barricades and stay safe!

\*For more information about the "Turn Around, Don't Drown" National Weather Service program, please visit this link: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/water/tadd/>.

Public Works Department



Be Safe: Do not drive around barricades or attempt to drive through storm water!



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# Castle Hills Community Organization (CHCO)

By John Strieb, President

As I look back on this past year the Castle Hills Community Organization experienced a successful year. We entered 2014 as a "Homeowners Association" and end it being the "Community Organization" which better fits our mission as part of the Castle Hills Community.

At the annual meeting in January, members presented strong ideas to enhance the direction and purpose of our organization. These ideas included amending the By-Laws and Mission Statement and a proposed name change. The membership agreed with these progressive ideas and the proposed changes were approved at the March meeting.

The CHCO hosted many community activities during 2014. Under the guidance of Debbie Reeves and the electronic skills of the Castle Hills Fire Department CHCO hosted four movie nights during the summer, all of which had to be held indoors due to rain or heat.

CHCO participated in the festivities of Fiesta Castle Hills in April with a booth on the Common. The following weekend, lots of citizens young and old came to see the Easter bunny and gather eggs at the CHCO Annual Easter Egg Hunt on the Common.

## Shweiki

The first week of October brought the CHCO Safety Awareness Night to kick off October Crime Prevention month. CHCO was an active participant hosting and attending block parties for National Night Out on October 7th. Our annual Halloween Party was a great success thanks to Debbie Reeves and Nancy Batchelders hard work and organizational skills. There were lots of games, food, and activities and some very creative costumes worn by children and adults. It was followed by a screening of Ghost Buster movie which was actually shown outdoors. I guess the scary costumes scared away the rain! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the games, cooked food, and to our firemen who setup the movie screen. Thanks also to Whimsy Art Studio in Castle Hills for setting up a hands on art booth for the kids and providing staff and supplies at no cost. The final event for 2014 was Snow Day in December.

CHCO will kick off the New Year with the **Annual Meeting** to be held in the **Castle Hills Community Room, 7:00pm on Monday, January 12, 2015.**

Thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors who made our many 2014 events a tremendous success. I also extend a thank you to all the citizens who participated in the CHCO events. Volunteering, playing, learning, and getting to know one another are vital parts of building the community that makes Castle Hills.

Our membership drive is fast approaching and I would like to invite anyone residing or who has a business in the Castle Hills Community to join our organization. The dues are \$25 per calendar year. Our dues fund our activities. We need your support to continue to provide events that help bring our community together. If you wish to join, just send a check to CHCO, 6804 West Ave, San Antonio, TX 78213. Please include your address, phone number and email.

Happy New Year to All! CHCO is looking forward to a fun filled and successful 2015.



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